material of the species, habitally the plants of this hemisphere are quite different, being characterized by generally shorter, stouter, often somewhat curved and densely clumped culms. The North American variety, which occurs in wet places near the coast from British Columbia south to Mexico, is more closely related to the South American material, *Scirpus cernuus* Vahl var. *pygmaeus* (J. Ball) Dusén, than to the European typical *S. cernuus* Vahl.

S. CUBENSIS Poeppig & Kunth var. **gracilis** (Boeck.), comb. nov. *Scirpus ablepharus* Griseb. Cat. Pl. Cub. 240. 1866. *Anosporum cubense* Boeck. var. *gracile* Boeck. Linnaea **36:** 414. 1869–70. *Kyllingia scirpina* Rchb. in Boeck. Linnaea **36:** 414. 1870.

Like *Scirpus cubensis* but culms slender, with narrow leaves only up to 5 mm. broad, and equally narrow involucral bracts; heads small, only up to 1 cm. broad. Inland swamps of tropical and subtropical America.

S. CYPERINUS (L.) Kunth forma **cephaloideus** (Sheldon), comb. nov. *Scirpus sylvaticus* f. *cephaloideus* Sheldon, Minn. Bot. Studies **1:** 68. 1894.

The type is from Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. This form, characterized by its congested panicles, is otherwise identical with typical *Scirpus cyperinus*.—A. A. BEETLE, University of California, Davis, California.

ACTAEA ALBA VERSUS ACTAEA PACHYPODA

H. A. GLEASON

MACKENZIE in 1928 (Torreya **28:** 51–52) and Fernald in 1940 (Rhodora **42:** 260–264) have discussed the nomenclature of the plant commonly known as *Actaea alba* (L.) Mill. Both surprisingly came to the same conclusion that this familiar plant of the Manual Range should be known as *Actaea pachypoda* Ell. Their reasons for reaching this opinion were different. Mackenzie believed that the Linnaean name, originally published as a variety of *A. spicata* L., belongs to the white-berried form of *A. rubra*, while Fernald believed that it properly belongs to the European *A. spicata*. Under either belief the epithet *alba* would

not apply to our well known plant, for which Elliott's specific name would then be used.

The facts set forth by Mackenzie and by Fernald are correct; only the interpretation of these facts is subject to criticism. In brief, Cornut described and illustrated a plant under the name *Aconitum baccis niveis & rubris.* He stated that it grew in "opacis & silvestribus locis" in America, that the white berry became "orbicularis" at maturity and had a purple spot at the summit, but he also saw some red berries. His plate shows an Actaea unmistakably, but in the picture the berries are distinctly obovoid and on pedicels half to twice as long as themselves.

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, these statements must be accepted as correct. Since no material of Cornut's plant is extant, the correctness must be determined by internal evidence. The description, except the phrase mentioning red berries, applies solely to our common white-berried baneberry. The red berries may have come from the red-fruited form of this species or from *Actaea rubra.* The plate, so far as leaf and raceme are concerned, might represent either species or the European *A. spicata.* The illustration of the fruit, as to shape and pedicels, applies only to *A. spicata,* a species with black fruit. This is the only incongruity.

So far as known, Linnaeus had no specimen of this plant in 1753, but based his variety on Cornut's description and plate. To what plant do Cornut's and Linnaeus' names apply?

It is just as easy to stress the description of the fruit as the plate. No species of Actaea in eastern North America has a white fruit with a purple spot at the summit except our white baneberry.

On the other hand, if we regard Cornut's description as applying to three different species, thereby agreeing with Fernald that "it seems clear that Cornut had mixed material," then the application of the name was settled by Linnaeus himself. Of the three elements included under this view, Linnaeus selected one. He eliminated the black-fruited *A. spicata* and the American *A. rubra* from consideration and based his variety solely on the white-fruited American plant. See his original statement: "β. Aconitum baccis niveis. *Corn. canad.* 76. *t.* 77."

(note that the rest of Cornut's name *& rubris* has been omitted) and "*Habitat* . . . β. Americae." This procedure is in full accord with modern rules of nomenclature.

Our common white baneberry therefore, it seems to me, retains its time-honored name, *Actaea alba* (L.) Mill.

New York Botanical Garden.

Does Trilisa occur in Virginia?—Two species of the southeastern genus *Trilisa*, *T. paniculata* (Walt.) Cass. and *T. odoratissima* (Walt.) Cass., are recorded in our manuals as extending northward into Virginia. Nevertheless, concentrated search for them by Mr. Long and me and our temporary associates has failed to bring them to light. The most northern material of *T. paniculata* in the Gray Herbarium is from Beaufort County, North Carolina, 80 miles south of the pine barrens of Nansemond and Southampton Counties, where superficially somewhat similar *Carphephorus tomentosus* (Michx.) T. & G. and *C. bellidifolius* (Michx.) T. & G. both abound. The strongly vanilla-scented *Trilisa odoratissima* should be obvious when bruised, but the northernmost material I have seen is from Delway, Sampson County, North Carolina, more than 130 miles south of the Virginia line. The confusion started with Michaux, who described both species of *Carphephorus* (as *Liatris*) as exclusively from North Carolina, but described *Liatris paniculata* (*Trilisa*) as growing "a Virginia ad Floridam". Pursh continued this statement of range but admitted *L. tomentosa* (*Carphephorus*) from "Virginia and North Carolina". At present it looks as if the records of the two species of *Trilisa* from Virginia were based on the two species of *Carphephorus* which there abound and which they superficially resemble. Can any one find *Trilisa* in Virginia? —M. L. Fernald.

Volume 46, no. 543, containing pages 61–88 and plate 817, was issued 8 March, 1944.